

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 6, and 7.

By the present amendment, claim 4 will have been amended. Accordingly, claims 2-14 and 16-37 are currently pending. Claims 22-37 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 2, 3, 5, 8-14, and 16-21 are currently on appeal. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding objection, and allowance of claims 4, 6, and 7 in the present application.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 6, and 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of any intervening claims. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 2 and intervening claim 3. Claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 4.

Accordingly, in view of the above noted amendments and remarks, it is believed that the objection to claims 4, 6, and 7 has been overcome, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 4, 6, and 7.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

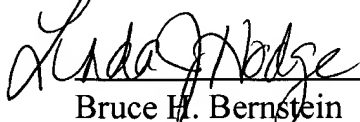
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the proposed amendment is proper for entry since it merely rewrites objected to claims into independent form and it is also submitted that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as recited in claims 4, 6, and 7.

Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, and allowance of the present amendment and claims 4, 6, and 7 therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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